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Vote Yes for renewed prosperity

New Jersey's voters will have the opportunity on November 3rd to vote for a better future and to begin the long term rebuilding of our state's prosperity.

Public Question #1 asks voters whether maintaining the quality of our farmland, water and air -- assets that are vital to the overall economic prosperity of the state -- is worth paying for. Funds will be used to preserve the open spaces that refresh our water supplies, like the Highlands, which is the source of vital water resources to 5.4 million New Jersey residents. This is the only statewide referendum on the ballot this year.

New Jersey has been losing about 50 acres per day of vital natural lands. A strong vote of "Yes" will do more than release badly needed dollars for preserving our land and water. It will also send a message to the Legislature and the next Governor, which the people of New Jersey are willing to invest in our shared assets. That must include building in the places where it makes the most sense, taking advantage of existing infrastructure, creating parks that enhance our neighborhoods' value and investing to revitalize existing neighborhoods and infrastructure. And it must include keeping our working farms, so that we can secure our supply of fresh local food in the Garden State.

By voting "Yes" on Public Question #1 citizens will re-affirm a long-held truth: wise investments pay. With approval of this \$400 million bond act, we'll be investing in our home state and in our families' futures, at a cost of just \$10 annually per household. Voting Yes on Public Question #1 says it is crucial that we pay attention and set aside the public resources necessary to preserve our most vital land and clean water to meet the needs of our population of nearly 9 million.

Everyone benefits when we protect the fragile land necessary to our water supply, and maintain the resources and assets that support New Jersey's large tourism industry, natural beauty, and remarkable range of wildlife. Our economic stability and long term prosperity depend on investing wisely in our assets. Vote Yes on Question #1, and tell our lawmakers to look at the big picture, and to recognize that how we use our land affects every aspect of our physical and economic well-being, now and into the future.

Julia Somers
Executive Director, New Jersey Highlands Coalition